

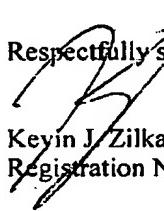
REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the allowable subject matter of Claims 3-6 and 8-16. The Examiner has objected to Claims 3-6 and 8-16 as being dependent on rejected claims. Applicant notes that each of the independent claims have been amended to include the subject matter of at least one of the foregoing claims (along with the limitations of any intervening claims).

Thus, all of the independent claims are deemed allowable. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims are further deemed allowable, in view of their dependence on such independent claims.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NAI1P263/99.010.01).

Respectfully submitted,


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